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Unisys Corporation
J Ronald Richelbourg
25725 Jeronimo Road
MS400
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

EXAMINER

ROBINSON, GRETA LEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2177

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/495,492

Applicant(s)
Hanson et al.

Examiner
Greta Robinson

Art Unit
2177



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 1, 2000
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application.

Drawings

2. The formal drawings received with the application have been approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-12 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, the following limitation is vague and lacks proper antecedent basis: “*responding to selection of one of said methods*” [see claim 1 line 11; also note claim 25 line 12]. The connection between the *regions representing a first method* (line 9) and *responding to selection of one of said methods* (line 11) is unclear. The term “said methods” infers that there is more than one method; but there only appears to be a single “first method to execute” (see line 9).

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Independent claim 25 parallels the limitation of claim 1; therefore it is rejected under the same rationale. Claims 2-12 are rejected based on dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Swanson US Patent 5,603,034.

Regarding claim 1, **Swanson** teaches a method for executing methods upon data objects distributed across a plurality of nodes of a system from a special device [figure 1] comprising the steps of:

providing a first graphical interface display on said device permitting user selection of a data object category, selection of such category resulting in display of a list of data objects available on the system [note: “*resource category selection object including a list of selectable resource category objects*” abstract];

responding to selection of a first of the data objects present in said list to generate a second graphical interface display on said device of at least a portion of

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the contents of said first of the data objects together with a display of a plurality of selectable regions, each of said regions representing a first method executable on said first data object [col. 3 line 49 through col. 4 line 4; col. 10 lines 40-67]; and responding to selection of one of said methods to execute that method upon the first data object and to display a first result of such execution on said device [col. 11 lines 4-8; col. 5 line 58 through col. 6 line 34].

Swanson teaches a graphical resource editor for selectively modifying graphical resources in software applications. The system permits user selection of a resource category object. A list of selectable resource category objects is taught. The graphical resource editor further includes a system responsive to user activation of the resource category selection object for generating a list of resource descriptors corresponding to the selected category. The software system may be customized to perform functions statically or dynamically while the application is running [abstract].

7. Regarding claim 2: wherein said user selection is achieved by a point and touch operation executed on the graphical interface display [col. 1 lines 9-37].

8. Regarding claim 3: wherein a second method is executed on said first result to produce a second result [col. 10 lines 25-30; col. 11 lines 4-8].

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9. Regarding claim 4: wherein each of said methods comprises a transaction whereby a set of transactions are built up and executed by interacting with said display, with the results of each transaction being sequentially displayed, and becoming the basis for the next operation in the sequence of transactions [col. 5 line 58 through col. 6 line 21; col. 7 lines 4-21].

10. Regarding claim 5: wherein said first method comprises an update of a record [note radio buttons for modifying file col. 15 lines 38-60; col. 24 lines 48-60 note “*change the values*”; also note cover figure *element (570)* “property_update”].

11. Regarding claim 6: wherein said first method comprises a summation of records [note custom interface col. 14 lines 17-37].

12. Regarding claims 7 and 8: wherein said first method comprises selection of a record having a particular attribute.. .. wherein said attribute is minimum value [col. 11 lines 9-54].

13. Regarding claim 9: wherein said second method comprises on update of a record [col. 24 lines 48-60].

14. Regarding claim 10: wherein said second method comprises a

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summation of records [col. 14 lines 17-37 custom interface].

15. Regarding claim 11: wherein said second method comprises selection of a record having a particular attribute [col. 14 lines 17-37].

16. Regarding claim 12: wherein said attribute is minimum value [custom interface col. 14 lines 17-37].

17. Regarding claim 13: A method comprising the steps of providing a special device with stored software comprising a graphical user interface and agent/messenger software, said software enabling said device to access data at one or more remote sites; and executing a sequence of transactions upon said data on a display screen of said special device via visual user interaction with said screen [figure 17; also note citations under claim 1].

18. Regarding claim 14: wherein said software provides user selection of a data object category, selection of such category resulting in display of a list of data objects available on the system [abstract].

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19. The limitations of claims 15-19 have been addressed above; therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.

20. Regarding claim 20: wherein said search is conducted on heterogeneous data stored across a plurality of sites [col. 5 lines 6-67].

21. Regarding claim 21: wherein said sequence of transactions further includes a sort on the results of said search with immediate display of the results of 3 said sort on the display of said special device [note "filter window 1460" see col. 18 lines 30-37; also note figure 12].

22. Regarding claim 22: wherein said special device is a palm held device [col. 5 lines 6-24].

23. Regarding claim 23:

a special device having a display screen associated therewith; and
means for executing a sequence of transactions upon said display
screen via visual point and touch interaction with said screen, each transaction of said
sequence being based on the result of execution of a previous transaction and wherein 6 at least
one of said transactions is executed upon data stored across a plurality of 7 remote storage
locations [figure 9; also note citations under claim 1].

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24. Regarding claim 24: wherein one of said transactions comprises user selection of a data object category, selection of such category resulting in display of a list of available data objects [abstract].
25. The limitations of apparatus claim 25 parallel method claim 1; therefore it is rejected under the same rationale.
26. Regarding claim 26: The method of Claim 24 wherein said user selection is achieved by a point and touch operation executed on the graphical interface display [col. 11 lines 9-37].
27. The limitations of computer program code claims 27 and 28 parallel method claims 13 and 14 (respectively); therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

28. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Swanson et al. US Patent 5,600,778

Hogan et al. US Patent 5,414,809

Ishikawa US Patent 6,262,734

Gramlich US Patent 5,826,025

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29. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta Robinson whose telephone number is (703)308-7565. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If any attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene, can be reached at (703)305-9790.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703)746-7239, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE") **Or:** (703)746-5657, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-9600.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greta Robinson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Greta Robinson

February 25, 2002